

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph at page 19, line 10, as follows:

The step (iii) is performed in an oxygen-containing atmosphere. The lower limit of the oxygen concentration is not particularly restricted, and the oxygen concentration is preferably not lower than 0.05 volume% and not higher than 70 volume%, preferably not higher than 50 volume%, more preferably not higher than 25 volume%. When the oxygen concentration exceeds the above range, a problem is caused from the standpoint of ~~safety~~ safety. It is preferable that a gas-phase component other than oxygen is an inert gas or inert gases.